

- BC's economy expands 3.7% in 2005 as domestic demand continues to drive growth
- Both goods and service sector post solid gains in 2005
- Exports rebound in September

The Economy

- **British Columbia's economy continued to grow at a fast clip, expanding 3.7% in 2005 after posting even stronger growth (+4.6%) in the previous year.** Yukon (+5.2%) led the regions in terms of economic growth last year, followed closely by Alberta (+4.6%). BC and Saskatchewan (+3.1%) were the only other regions where economic growth outpaced the national average of 2.9%.

Final domestic demand (consumer, government & business spending on goods and services) continued to be the main driver of economic growth in the province, increasing 4.5% in 2005. Consumer spending rose 4.4%, and government (+9.9%) and business (+7.4%) investment also continued to climb even though the frenetic pace of investment in new housing moderated. Investment in residential structures (+6.5%) increased at single-digit rates for the first time since 2001.

Export growth slowed (+2.9%) in 2005, but the demand for imported goods and services remained robust (+5.7%). Many of the goods purchased in the province are produced in other parts of the country, or in the rest of the world, so strong domestic demand for goods and services usually results in higher imports.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Despite recent strength in the economy, real per capita GDP (\$34,173) remains well below the average for all regions (\$35,843).** BC continued to trail Alberta (43,598), Ontario (\$38,536), Saskatchewan (\$34,504), and two of the three territories.

Real personal after-tax income in the province (\$20,983) was also below the national average (\$21,276), and lagged behind Alberta (\$25,473),

Ontario (\$22,094) and the territories.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Both goods (+3.3%) and service (+3.5%) industries made strong gains in 2005.** Wholesalers (+7.7%) and retailers (+4.4%) benefited from strong consumer and business demand, and transportation & warehousing (+5.3%) and the information & cultural services (+4.5%) industry also recorded solid growth. Construction (+5.3%), manufacturing (+3.0%) and the energy sector (+2.7%) were booming. The information and communication technologies (ICT) sector advanced 5.1%, posting gains in both the manufacturing (+1.9%) and service (+5.9%) components.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Exports of BC products continued to see-saw in September, climbing 4.3% (seasonally adjusted), after slipping (-1.5%) in August.** Shipments of energy (+13.0%), machinery, equipment & automotive (+11.8%), agriculture & fish (+7.7%) and industrial & consumer (+4.1%) products were all higher. However, the value of forest product exports dropped (-2.7%). Exports to the US (+2.6%) as well as other destinations (+7.0%) rose in September.

Canadian exports slipped (-2.0%) in September, reflecting lower exports of energy (-6.5%) and automotive (-4.2%) products.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities fell 7.5% (seasonally adjusted) in September.** The decline reflects a significant drop in non-residential building projects (-29.4%), which outweighed a 3.4% increase in residential permits. Abbotsford (+116.6%) was the only census metropolitan area in BC to show growth. Building intentions in both Victoria (-36.6%) and Vancouver (-15.2%) were

Did you know...

Only 24% of British Columbians are worried about getting sick from the flu this year, compared to 27% of Canadians overall *Source: Ipsos Reid*

substantially lower than in August. Canadian permits were down 2.5%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Year-to-date, the value of building permits issued in the province was 9.6% higher than in the first nine months of 2005.** Investment intentions were fairly robust in most regions, with Northeast (+21.9%), Vancouver Island/Coast (+18.7%) and North Coast (+17.5%) posting the biggest gains. Stable, but less substantial increases were seen in Thompson/Okanagan (+4.7%) and Mainland/Southwest (+10.3%), but permits were down in Nechako (-20.5%), Cariboo (-16.5%) and Kootenay (-3.6%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

Housing

- **Housing starts in the province climbed 8.0% (seasonally adjusted) in October, building on a 1.5% increase the previous month.** Nationally, starts were up 6.8%, on the strength of robust building activity in five provinces.

Data Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

- **The cost of new housing in BC's two biggest metropolitan areas was up again in September.** New house prices in Victoria (+0.5%) were slightly higher than in September of last year, as increased land values (+6.1%) managed to offset lower building costs (-2.8%). Vancouver's New Housing Price Index was up 8.1%, with inflationary pressure coming from both housing (+12.3%) and land (+0.8%) prices.

Nationally, the cost of new housing advanced 11.9% during the twelve-month period ending in September as costs rose in every metropolitan area. Calgary (+59.4%) posted the largest increase, more than six times the Canadian average. After Calgary, the most inflationary new housing markets were in Edmonton (+39.6%) and Saskatoon (+12.7%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Third Quarter in Review

- **Exports of BC products slipped 1.7% (seasonally adjusted) during the third quarter, after dropping 4.1% earlier in the year.** The downturn in exports was due to lower shipments to both the US (-0.5%) and other destinations (-3.4%) over second quarter levels.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Homicide

- **There were 98 homicides reported by police in British Columbia in 2005, a decrease of 15 from the number reported in 2004.** As a result, the province's homicide rate fell from 2.69 per 100,000 population to 2.30. Among the province's largest cities, both Vancouver (2.88) and Abbotsford (2.46) had a higher homicide rate than the provincial average last year, while Victoria's (0.60) was significantly lower.

Canada's homicide rate increased for the second consecutive year, pushing the national homicide rate up to 2.04 per 100,000 population. Canadian police services reported 658 homicides in 2005, 34 more than the previous year. Homicide rates were much higher in the West, with Alberta (3.35), Manitoba (4.16) and Saskatchewan (4.33) recording the highest rates among the provinces. British Columbia was the only western province to report a decline in 2005. With no reported murders in 2005, PEI had the lowest homicide rate in the country (0.00), followed by New Brunswick (1.20) and Quebec (1.32).

Most homicide victims were killed by an acquaintance (44%) or family member (33%). Only 18% of victims in 2005 met their end at the hands of a stranger. There were 65 youths (aged 12 to 17 years) accused of homicide, 21 more than the previous year. There were 74 spousal homicides, down slightly from the previous year, and 107 victims of gang-related homicide, which continues to rise. The frequency of homicides perpetrated against children continues to decline. However, despite falling numbers, thirty-three children were murdered last year, eleven of whom were infants. Of the 658 homicides reported in Canada last year, 180 were unsolved.

Despite the declining rate in the United States in recent years, the overall homicide rate in Canada is considerably lower than that of the US (5.63).

Data Source: SC, Cat. # 85-002, Vol 26

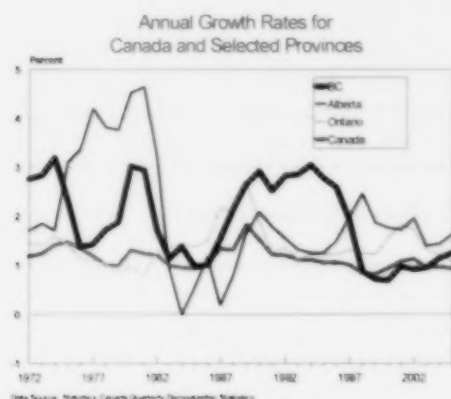
*Infoline Issue: 06-45
November 10th, 2006*

Contact: Dave O'Neil (250) 387-0335

Originally published in *Migration Highlights* Issue 06-2. Annual Subscription \$30 +GST

Health Authorities: P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31

The most recent sub-provincial population projection is P.E.O.P.L.E. 31, prepared in May, 2006. All projections are affected by population trends at a provincial level, since the provincial components of mortality, fertility and migration act as control totals for the sub-provincial regions. Therefore, the first part of this paper will focus on the details of the provincial level projection (Proj 05/12) before turning to the projections for individual health authorities.



After peaking in 1994 at 3.04%, British Columbia's annual rate of population growth slowed considerably. The province's growth rate reached its lowest point in 2000 at 0.69%, a level lower than the national average for that year. Despite increases since 2000, annual population growth for British Columbia remained below the national average until 2004. Statistics Canada estimates that British Columbia's population grew by 1.25% in the year preceding July 1, 2005. In comparison, the population of Canada grew by an estimated 0.9% over the same period. The above chart demonstrates that British Columbia's annual growth rate has been lower than Alberta's since 1997 and was lower than Ontario's from 1998 to 2004 inclusive.

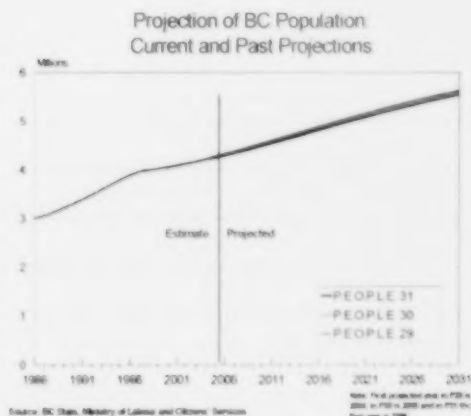
P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 Projects Larger Population

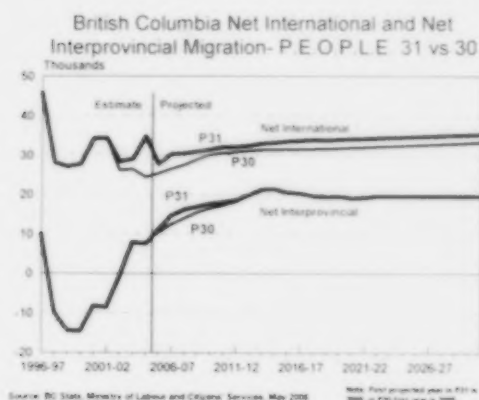
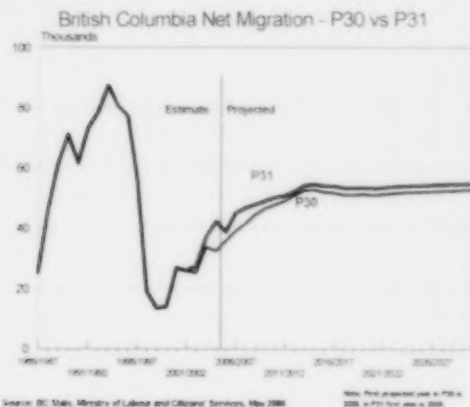
P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 projects a slightly larger population than both P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 and P.E.O.P.L.E. 29.

The estimated provincial population in 2005 was 0.7% larger than that projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 29 and 0.4% larger than that projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. These differences are, in part, due to revisions in Statistics Canada's base year estimates. The small difference in 2005 between the current run and P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 is amplified throughout the projection and by 2031 the difference increases to about 1%, or almost 60,000 people.

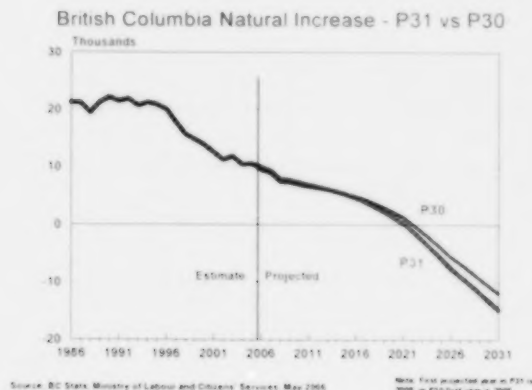
Differences in Components of Growth

Much of the difference between P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 and P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 is due to an increase in expected net migration. The larger projected net migration is largely a result of higher net international migration throughout the projection period. Net interprovincial migration is also expected to be slightly higher than in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, particularly in the short run.

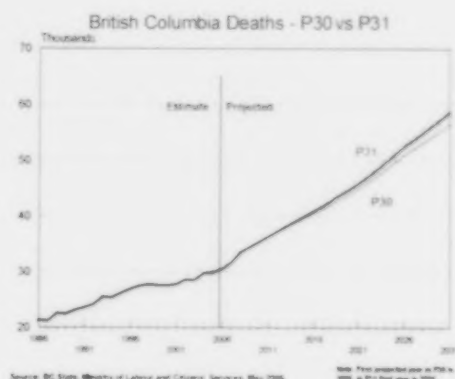




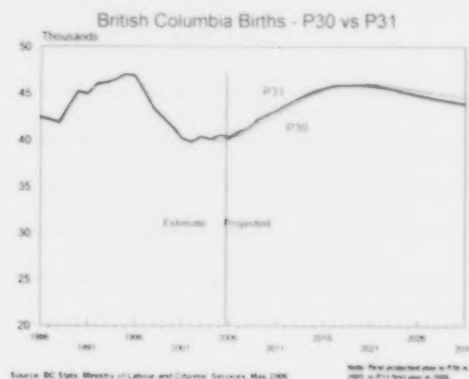
Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates slightly higher natural increase in the short-term and lower natural increase after 2014. This is likely due to a combination of factors.



First, compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, mortality rates are slightly lower in the early part of the current projection resulting in slightly fewer deaths.



As well, the current projection anticipates more births in the early part of the projection, largely due to a higher anticipated number of females in childbearing ages.



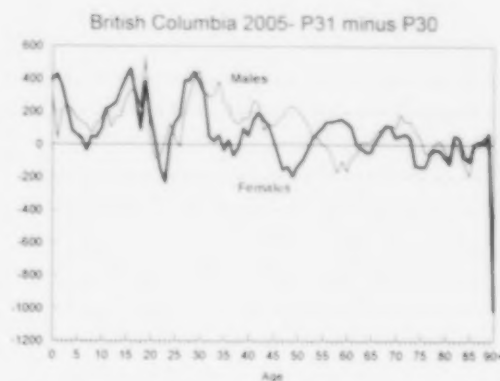
In the latter half of the projection this situation reverses. Although fertility rates remain essentially unchanged from P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, smaller numbers of females in childbearing ages and a more rapidly ageing population than previously expected will likely lead to fewer births and more deaths than P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, resulting in lower natural increase figures.

An Older Population for British Columbia

The base provincial population used in the P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 projection is the July 1, 2005 population estimate for British Columbia prepared by Statistics Canada. The source for this estimate is the 2001 Census with an adjustment by age and sex for net census undercount. This estimate indicated a larger provincial population than previous estimates and also resulted in a revision to the estimated age structure of the population.

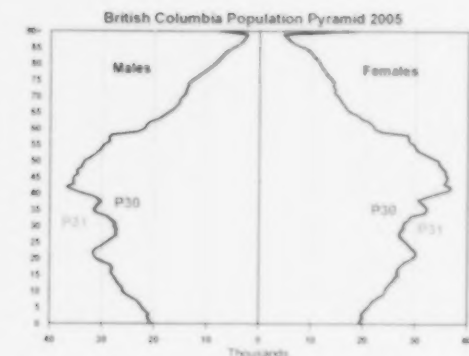
As can be seen in the population pyramid for 2005, the base population for P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 is very similar in structure to the 2005 population projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. However, there are slightly more people at almost every age, except for those aged 75 and older. The new estimate is larger than projected by over 15,000 people but, spread over much of the age spectrum, this difference has a minimal impact on any particular age cohort.

The following chart shows the difference between P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 for males and females by age. In combination with the differences in net migration and natural increase, these differences in age structure will have repercussions throughout the projection period.

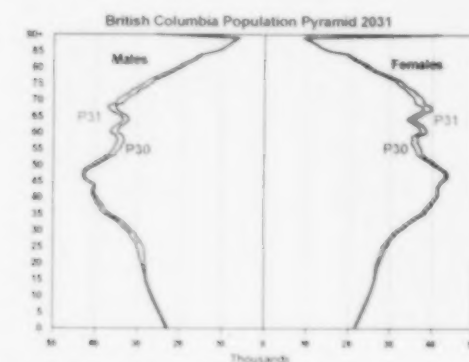


Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006

P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 projects an older population than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. By 2031 the projected median age for P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 is 46.2 years, a full year older than that projected by P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. The current projection run anticipates smaller numbers of people aged 45 years and younger, and larger numbers of those older than 45 years.

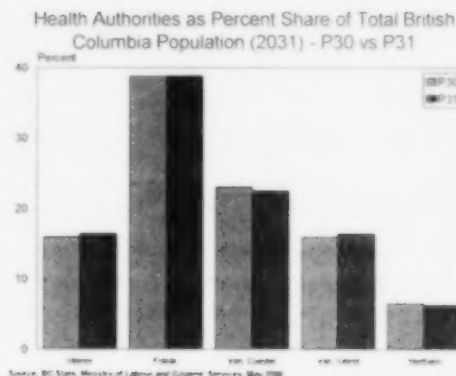
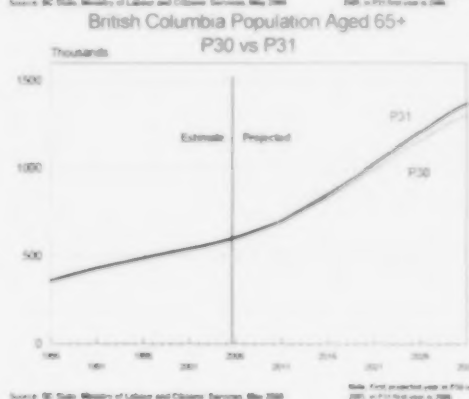
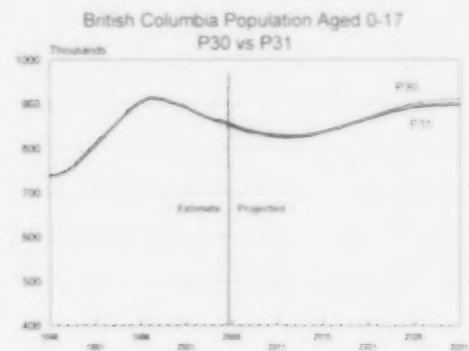


Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006



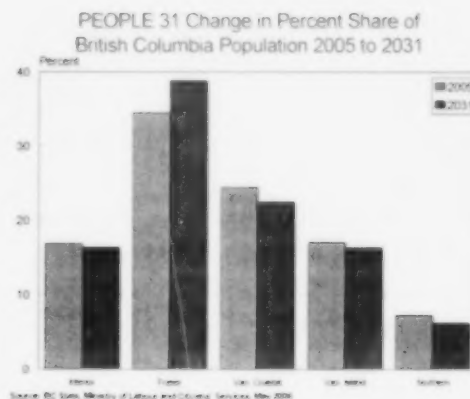
Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006

The greater (and more rapid) ageing of British Columbia's population projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 can be seen in the fewer children under the age of 18 years in the latter part of the projection, as well as the greater number of seniors aged 65 and older.



There are only small differences between P.E.O.P.L.E. 30's projection and the estimates that form the base population (2005) of P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 with regard to the proportion each health authority contributes to the total population of British Columbia. The following chart demonstrates that P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 also does not deviate very much from the P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 projection for 2031. The Lower Mainland will likely have the largest concentration of population in the province. Fraser Health Authority's population is expected to be the largest share of the total British Columbia population at almost 40%, followed by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority with about 22%.

By 2031, the Fraser Health Authority is the only region expected to increase its share of the total British Columbia population. It is expected to increase by over four percentage points between 2005 and 2031, while all other health authorities will likely see a drop in their shares.





Understanding and Interpreting Data

This is a practical statistical course that covers the basic aspects of survey data analysis. This course will appeal to novice analysts and those who are required to interpret statistical findings. It provides an overview of basic types of research as well as analytical requirements. This is followed by a short treatment of survey sampling and types of data. Some of the analytical techniques that will be covered include cross tabulations, chi-square and some aspects of linear regression. The workshop includes a hands on data analysis exercise and a discussion on the principles for presenting results.

- Analytical requirements and sources of data
- Survey design and sampling methods
- Types of Data
- Confidence intervals
- Grouping and graphic data
- Analytical techniques
- Interpreting and presenting analytical results

DATE:


December 7-8, 2006

LOCATION:

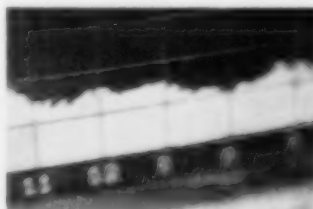
Room 201
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TIME:

8:30 am—4:30 pm

 Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

Learn from the Survey Experts!!



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The workshop fee will be refunded (subject to a \$75 administration charge) if intention to cancel is received in writing at least 3 business days before the first day of the workshop. Within 3 business days before the first day of the workshop, no refunds will be given.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change on
	Jul 1/06	one year ago
BC	4,310.5	1.2
Canada	32,623.5	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 8)		% change on
(BC - at market prices)	2005	one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	168,855	7.2
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	145,501	3.7
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	34,173	2.4
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	20,983	2.4
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on
		prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Aug	3,567	4.8
Merchandise Exports - Sep	2,791	4.3
Retail Sales - Aug	4,536	1.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg
(all items - Sep 2006)	% change on one year ago	% change
BC	1.0	1.9
Vancouver	1.4	1.8
Victoria	0.7	1.9
Canada	0.7	2.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Oct '06	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,322	0.4
Employed - BC	2,214	0.6
Unemployed - BC	108	-3.1
		Sep '06
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	4.6	4.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	6.2	6.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)		
	Nov 8/06	Nov 9/05
Prime Business Rate	6.00	4.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.40	5.40
- 5 year	6.60	6.15
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		
(avg. noon spot rate)	Nov 8/06	Nov 9/05
Cdn \$	1.1277	1.1860
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)	0.8851	0.8430
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Oct '06	one year ago
BC	732.68	3.7
Canada	733.76	3.2

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada
 Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
 For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Small Business Quarterly (FREE)

This longstanding periodical is now available for free on our site. Check out the latest issue (including data tables) and browse previous articles (previous articles have always been free for all our subscription periodicals).

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_sbq.asp

A Guide to the BC Economy and Labour Market

The third edition of the *Guide* is now available. The *Guide* is a useful resource which provides an overview of the provincial economy and the characteristics of its workforce. Written by Lillian Hallin of BC Stats, it focuses on provincial industries with an emphasis on their human resource side. Economic terms are explained and examples provided, so that a background in economics is not needed to understand the material. The *Guide* also provides an historical perspective on how the provincial economy has developed, as well as what it may look like in the future.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/econ_gui.asp

Released this week by BC STATS

- Tourism Sector Monitor, October 2006
- Exports, September 2006

Next week

- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 3rd Quarter 2006

